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BACKGROUND:

CPYRGHT A Fresh Look at the Soviet Economy

The reaction in the Soviet press to the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) news release of Jan. 9, which in summary form indicated in what ways Soviet economic development was lagging behind that of the United States, was so hostile and violent that it aroused the suspicion that perhaps the CIA estimate had hit the bull's eye. Having exploited in the Soviet news media whatever criticism of the CIA release was available in the Western press, even unto letters to the editor, the Soviet propaganda mill took to reproducing *in extenso* stories in the Western press concerning horrible living conditions in the advanced countries of the West, and the *Literary Gazette* even launched a three-part serial on the "madness" of Allen Dulles, with clear intimations that his successor as chief of the CIA, John McCone, was an equally depraved character.

Victor Mayevsky's feuilleton, "CIA's Dog's Life" in *Pravda* of Jan. 15, disdainfully refers to Dulles' book *The Craft of Intelligence* and cites appropriate passages from such newspapers as New York's *Post*, *Times* and *Herald Tribune* and *The Times* of London; then it concludes that the CIA is not only a shop of dirty tricks, "of piracy and murder, not only a kingdom of lost hopes, but also a center for raising canards. Yes, ordinary paper canards, the monopoly for which until now was maintained only by the gutter press!"

Mayevsky Charges CIA With Fakery

Mayevsky charges that McCone, rejecting the advice of Dulles in his book that it does not pay to deal in forgeries in times of peace, concocted this piece of alleged fakery for several reasons:

(1) To distract the attention of "4 million unemployed" and "40 to 50 million poor people" in the United States, who may find some comfort in this fairy tale. It may also sooth the nerves of those who spend sleepless nights worrying about "the successes and grandiose plans of the Soviet Union";

(2) To counteract the effect of Soviet economic achievements on the young independent countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, where the Peace Corps and the Alliance of Progress "have been failures," in order to arouse doubts about the socialist way of developing their economies;

(3) To help the American campaign to induce the NATO countries to reduce the length of credit being granted by Western governments to the Soviet Union. Moreover, Mayevsky charges:

(4) McCone, who is personally ambitious, may be laying the groundwork for taking over the government of the United States, should such an opportunity arise. Citing Stewart Alsop, Mayevsky reports that McCone is a "hawk," an ardent anti-communist, a pious Catholic and a friend of Richard Nixon's—all cardinal sins in the Communist decalog—and in addition charges that he has connections with ship-building, plane-construction and rocket enterprises.

Literaturnaya Gazeta of Jan. 30 quotes the "amazing admission" of New York Times columnist C. L. Sulzberger to the effect that the purpose of the CIA news release, which "as is well known, contradicts the lowest estimates of American economists," was "educational"—to prepare the American public for accepting "new important agreements" with the Soviet government aiming at permanent peace and "cessation of the armaments race." Americans had been "frightened," according to this version, by reports of the "enormous military and economic might of the U.S.S.R.," and now had to be "quieted" by reports of an opposite nature—that militarily and economically the Soviet Union was not really strong. "This is untrue, but without this lie, U.S.A. public opinion will not consent to peace, to measures of disarmament, to the reduction of military expenditures . . ." Sulzberger is quoted in paraphrase. While expressing approval of Sulzberger's concern for peace and accommodation with the Soviet government, as well as his "knowledgability" in refusing to accept the CIA estimate, the Soviet commentator M. Kirillov wonders if Sulzberger is "not exaggerating" the "backwardness" (*nesoznatel'nost'*) of American citizens and whether it is really necessary to "re-educate" them with such "lies" as the CIA put out in its news release.

Pravda Cites U.S. Criticism of Report

Pravda of Feb. 18, in a TASS dispatch from New York, gives extensive coverage to a letter to the editor of the *Washington Post*, which, after condemning the CIA release as a "violation of the practice of the intelligence services of the entire world" and thus compromising "not only itself but other government organizations," proceeded to a refutation of the CIA release in economic terms. The "monolithic society" of the Soviet Union, according to the TASS report of this letter, "evokes intellectual paralysis among our [American] thinkers" instead of stimulating innovations that might "assure the superiority of our country in accordance with the freedoms on which we insist."